

May 20, 2019

VIA FACSIMILE

Director, Office of Information Programs and Services (IPS)  
United States Department of State  
State Annex 2 (SA-2)  
515 22nd Street, NW  
Washington DC 20522-8100

To the responsible FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I hereby appeal the denial of expedited processing regarding my request F-2019-05561, regarding Amir Mohamed Meshal.

As a Research Fellow, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information. My publications and multimedia page can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.cato.org/people/patrick-g-eddington>

The public has an urgent need for information about the State Department's conduct in the handling of the Meshal episode, particularly in light of the fact that existing federal court rulings appear to permit federal authorities to detain and question American citizens overseas (see *Meshal v. Higgenbotham*, No. 14-5194 (D.C. Cir. 2015)) absent access to private counsel or timely access to State Department consular officials—both clear violations of due process rights under the Constitution.

As a Cato scholar, I meet the statutory definition of a “representative of the news media” per *Cause of Action v. F.T.C.*, 799 F.3d 1108 (D.C. Cir. 2015) as Cato and its scholars (1) gather information of potential interest (2) to a segment of the public; (3) use editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work; and (4) distribute that work (5) to one or more audiences. **Accordingly, I ask for expedited processing on that basis.** I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest. My thanks to the Department for its decision to grant me a fee waiver in connection with this request.

Whenever possible, please provide the requested information in electronic Portable Document Format (PDF).

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of

otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I would appreciate your communicating with me by email or telephone, rather than by mail. My email address is [peddington@cato.org](mailto:peddington@cato.org) and my cell number is 571-215-3468.

I look forward to your determination regarding my request for expedited processing within 10 calendar days, as the statute requires. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick G. Eddington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" being more prominent than the last name "Eddington".

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